

§ 3201.8 Determining life cycle costs, environmental and health benefits, and performance.

(a) *Providing information on life cycle costs and environmental and health benefits.* Federal agencies may not require manufacturers or vendors of biobased products to provide to procuring agencies more data than would be required to be provided by other manufacturers or vendors offering products for sale to a procuring agency, other than data confirming the biobased contents of the products, as a condition of the purchase of biobased products from the manufacturer or vendor.

(b) *Performance test information.* In assessing performance of qualifying biobased products, USDA requires that procuring agencies rely on results of performance tests using applicable ASTM, ISO, Federal or military specifications, or other similarly authoritative industry test standards. Such testing must be conducted by an ASTM/ISO compliant laboratory. The procuring official will decide whether performance data must be brand-name specific in the case of products that are essentially of the same formulation.

(c) *Biodegradability information.* If biodegradability is claimed by the manufacturer of a qualifying biobased product as a characteristic of that product, USDA requires that, if requested by procuring agencies, these claims be verified using the appropriate, product-specific ASTM biodegradability standard(s). Such testing must be conducted by an ASTM/ISO-compliant laboratory. The procuring official will decide whether biodegradability data must be brand-name specific in the case of products that are essentially of the same formulation. ASTM biodegradability standards include:

(1) D5338 “Standard Test Method for Determining Aerobic Biodegradation of Plastic Materials Under Controlled Composting Conditions”;

(2) D5864 “Standard Test Method for Determining the Aerobic Aquatic Biodegradation of Lubricants or Their Components”;

(3) D6006 “Standard Guide for Assessing Biodegradability of Hydraulic Fluids”;

(4) D6400 “Standard Specification for Compostable Plastics” and the standards cited therein;

(5) D6139 “Standard Test Method for Determining the Aerobic Aquatic Biodegradation of Lubricants or Their Components Using the Gledhill Shake Flask”;

(6) D6868 “Standard Specification for Biodegradable Plastics Used as Coatings on Paper and Other Compostable Substrates”; and

(7) D7081 “Standard Specification for Non-Floating Biodegradable Plastics in the Marine Environment.”

[70 FR 1809, Jan. 11, 2005, as amended at 71 FR 13704, Mar. 16, 2006; 71 FR 42575, July 27, 2006; 76 FR 6322, Feb. 4, 2011]

§ 3201.9 Funding for testing.

(a) *USDA use of funds for biobased content and BEES testing.* USDA will use funds to support testing for biobased content and conduct of BEES testing for products within items USDA has selected to designate for preferred procurement through early regulatory action. USDA initially will focus on gathering the necessary test information on a sufficient number of products within an item (generic grouping of products) to support regulations to be promulgated to designate an item or items for preferred procurement under this program. USDA may accept cost sharing for such testing to the extent consistent with USDA product testing decisions. During this period USDA will not consider cost sharing in deciding what products to test. When USDA has concluded that a critical mass of items have been designated, USDA will exercise its discretion, in accordance with the competitive procedures outlined in paragraph (b) of this section, to allocate a portion of the available USDA testing funds to give priority to testing of products for which private sector firms provide cost sharing for the testing.

(b) *Competitive program for cost sharing for determining life cycle costs, environmental and health benefits, and performance.* (1) Subject to the availability of funds and paragraph (a) of this section, USDA will announce annually the solicitation of proposals for cost sharing for life cycle costs, environmental and

§ 3201.10

health benefits, and performance testing of biobased products in accordance with the standards set forth in § 3201.8 to carry out this program. Information regarding the submission of proposals for cost sharing also will be posted on the USDA informational Web site, <http://www.biopreferred.gov>.

(2) Proposals will be evaluated and assigned a priority rating. Priority ratings will be based on the following criteria:

(i) A maximum of 25 points will be awarded a proposal based on the market readiness;

(ii) A maximum of 20 points will be awarded a proposal based on the potential size of the market for that product in Federal agencies;

(iii) A maximum of 25 points will be awarded based on the financial need for assistance of the manufacturer or vendor;

(iv) A maximum of 20 points will be awarded a proposal based on the product's prospective competitiveness in the market place;

(v) A maximum of 10 points will be awarded a proposal based on its likely benefit to the environment.

(3) Cost-sharing proposals will be considered first for high priority products of small and emerging private business enterprises. If funds remain to support further testing, USDA will consider cost sharing proposals for products of all other producers of biobased items as well as the remaining proposals for products of small and emerging private business enterprises. Proposals will be selected based on priority rating until available funds for the fiscal year are committed.

(4)(i) For products selected for life cycle costs and environmental and health benefits testing under this paragraph, USDA could provide up to 50 percent of the cost of determining the life cycle costs and environmental and health effects, up to a maximum of \$5,000 of assistance per product.

(ii) For products selected for performance testing under this paragraph, USDA could provide up to 50 percent of the cost for performance testing, up to \$100,000 of assistance per product for up to two performance tests (measures of performance) per product.

7 CFR Ch. XXXII (1–13 Edition)

(5) For selected proposals, USDA will enter into agreements with and provide the funds directly to the testing entities.

(6) Proposals submitted in one fiscal year, but not selected for cost sharing of testing in that year, may be resubmitted to be considered for cost sharing in the following year.

[70 FR 1809, Jan. 11, 2005, as amended at 76 FR 6322, Feb. 4, 2011. Redesignated and amended at 76 FR 53632, Aug. 29, 2011]

Subpart B—Designated Items

SOURCE: 71 FR 13705, Mar. 16, 2006. Redesignated at 76 FR 53632, Aug. 29, 2011.

§ 3201.10 Mobile equipment hydraulic fluids.

(a) *Definition.* Hydraulic fluids formulated for general use in non-stationary equipment, such as tractors, end loaders, or backhoes.

(b) *Minimum biobased content.* The minimum biobased content is 44 percent and shall be based on the amount of qualifying biobased carbon in the product as a percent of the weight (mass) of the total organic carbon in the finished product.

(c) *Preference effective date.* No later than March 16, 2007, procuring agencies, in accordance with this part, will give a procurement preference for qualifying biobased mobile equipment hydraulic fluids. By that date, Federal agencies that have the responsibility for drafting or reviewing specifications for items to be procured shall ensure that the relevant specifications require the use of biobased mobile equipment hydraulic fluids.

(d) *Determining overlap with an EPA-designated recovered content product.* Qualifying biobased products that fall under this item may, in some cases, overlap with the following EPA-designated recovered content product: Refined Lubricating Oils. USDA is requesting that manufacturers of these qualifying biobased products provide information for the BioPreferred Web site of qualifying biobased products about the intended uses of the product, information on whether or not the product contains petroleum-based ingredients, re-refined oil, and/or any other recovered material, in addition